

What is claimed is:

Sub 122  
cont.

1. A method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex, which comprises adding a protease having an exopeptidase activity to a natural rubber latex and aging the natural rubber latex, thereby  
5 to decompose a protein in the latex to such a degree that the protein and a protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular weight of 4500 or more, are not detected.

2. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 1, wherein the protein and the  
10 decomposition product thereof in the latex are removed after decomposing the protein.

3. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 2, wherein the protein and the decomposition product thereof are removed by a centrifugation  
15 treatment.

4. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the latex is adjusted to a neutral range before treating with the protease having an exopeptidase activity.

20 5. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 1, wherein the protease having an exopeptidase activity is produced by microorganisms which belong to the genus *Aspergillus* or *Rhizopus*.

6. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber  
25 latex according to claim 5, wherein the microorganisms which belong

Sub 02 /  
cont. /  
to the genus *Aspergillus* are microorganisms which belong to  
*Aspergillus oryzae*.

7. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 5, wherein the microorganisms which belong  
5 to the genus *Aspergillus* are microorganisms which belong to  
*Aspergillus mellus*.

8. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 5, wherein the microorganisms which belong to the genus *Rhizopus* are microorganisms which belong to *Rhizopus*  
10 *oryzae*.

9. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 1, wherein the decomposition treatment of the protein is carried out in the presence of a surfactant.

10. A method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber  
15 latex, which comprises adding an alkali protease to a natural rubber latex, thereby to decompose a protein in the latex, adding a protease having an exopeptidase activity, thereby to further decompose the protein and a decomposition product thereof in the latex, and removing the protein and the decomposition product thereof.

20 11. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex according to claim 10, wherein the protein and the decomposition product thereof are removed by a centrifugation treatment.

12. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber  
25 latex according to claim 10, wherein the pH of the latex is adjusted

Sub 13  
to a neutral range before treating with the protease having an exopeptidase activity.

13. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex according to claim 10, wherein the protease having an  
5 exopeptidase activity is produced by microorganisms which belong to the genus *Aspergillus* or *Rhizopus*.

14. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex according to claim 13, wherein the microorganisms which belong to the genus *Aspergillus* are microorganisms which belong  
10 to *Aspergillus oryzae*.

15. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex according to claim 13, wherein the microorganisms which belong to the genus *Aspergillus* are microorganisms which belong to *Aspergillus mellus*.

Sub 15  
A 10 >  
16. The method of preparing a low allergic natural rubber latex according to claim 13, wherein the microorganisms which belong to the genus *Rhizopus* are microorganisms which belong to *Rhizopus oryzae*.

20  
Sub 132  
17. The method of preparing a deproteinized natural rubber latex according to claim 10, wherein the decomposition treatment of the protein is carried out in the presence of a surfactant.

18. A low allergic natural rubber obtained by a decomposition treatment of a protein, wherein the protein and a protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular  
25 weight of 4500 or more, are not detected.

Sub 133  
Cont 11

19. The low allergic natural rubber according to claim 18, wherein a protein and a protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular weight of 1500 or more, are not detected.

20. The low allergic natural rubber according to claim 18,  
5 wherein a content index of an allergic protein capable of producing an IgE-class antibody in a human blood serum is 10  $\mu\text{g/g}$  or less.

21. The low allergic natural rubber according to claim 20, wherein the content index of the allergic protein is 5  $\mu\text{g/g}$  or less.

10 22. A deproteinized natural rubber obtained by a decomposition treatment and a removing treatment of a protein, wherein

the content of the protein is 0.02% or less in terms of a nitrogen content,

15 an absorption at  $3280\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is not recognized in an infrared absorption spectrum, and

the protein and a protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular weight of 4500 or more, are not detected.

23. The deproteinized natural rubber according to claim 22,  
20 wherein a protein and a protein decomposition product, which have a number-average molecular weight of 1500 or more, are not detected.

24. The deproteinized natural rubber according to claim 22, wherein a content index of an allergic protein capable of producing an IgE-class antibody in a human serum is 10  $\mu\text{g/g}$  or less.

25 25. The deproteinized natural rubber according to claim 24,

*Subst. cont.* → wherein the content index of the allergic protein is 5  $\mu\text{g/g}$  or less.